



# The GARzette

The Official Newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
January 2016 <http://www.gars.org/> Volume 25, Issue 1



## The Ultimate Transceiver



# HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Learn more about it at our next club meeting!

# Message from the President

Let me start with the requisite “Happy New Year”! I hope you all closed out 2015 on a happy note and are looking forward to a great new year. Last year I mentioned that when I was younger I never thought I would see the year 2000. Well welcome to 2016? That’s just crazy!

January again starts us off with the Tech Fest event and I hope to see you all there. There will be representatives from all areas of the hobby. There will be satellite communications, digital operations, remote station operation, DX operations, local club representation, and more. And don’t forget the many door prizes and the coveted grand prize, an Icom 7100. Also there will be an exam session and chili cook-off. Everything is free except the prize raffle tickets. [Also, VE test session is \$14 to take an exam.] I hope to see you all there.

Are you new to GARS or new to the hobby? The GARS organization has a large number of very experienced hams and with only a little bit of encouragement, they would be glad to “elmer” you! All you need do is ask. Don’t be shy. Sometimes a new member or new ham may be intimidated by the lingo cast about by the experienced group. A bunch of hams may form a circle and start chatting about which BALUN they use for a certain antenna or what pattern their new spider beam creates. It can all seem daunting to a beginner. Don’t fear, just jump in! What is a “Spider Beam” or what is a “BALUN”? That’s all you need to say to get lassoed into a never ending learning experience.

Speaking of learning, here is the best way to do it... volunteer. GARS members are involved in many events throughout the year. Some are just for fun like Fox Hunts and May Madness. Others are for community support such as support of special races, the Memorial Day parade, and



*“2016 will mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary for GARS and we plan to celebrate this event.”*

Jamboree on the Air for the Scouts. And others are for the support and promotion of the hobby itself like Field Day, special events stations, and ham fests. Importantly some are for the direct support of GARS operations such as the dog show fundraiser, antenna parties, and so forth. These events combine fun, hard work and camaraderie with other GARS members and members of the supported community which make up the heart and soul of being an Amateur Radio Operator and a member of GARS.

On a final note, I want to express my gratitude for all the hard working members of GARS. Without all the hard work and volunteerism of our members there would be no president’s seat to fill. I am proud to be a member and officer of such a great organization. 2016 will mark the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary for GARS and we plan to celebrate this event. Maybe a special event station? Maybe a contest for past and present members? Who knows? All of this is in the planning for this year. Keep an ear out for upcoming events and thank you all for your great support.

Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

73s,

*Rick Cobb, N4XYY*

***“It is not the class of license the Amateur holds, but the class of the Amateur that holds the license.”***

[Author Unknown]

# GARS January Meeting

## “The New ICOM IC-7851 In Detail” by KI4VXF, Will Jourdain

*Tuesday, January 12, 2015*

*Start Time: 7:00 pm*

*Come Early—get a good seat!*

**Sports Aviation Complex - Hangar 1  
690 Airport Road  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045**

[Directions](#)

### INSIDE

Member QRZ Pages ..... Pg 4  
Coming Very Soon ..... Pg 5  
GARS Christmas Party.. Pg 6  
SOTA..... Pg 7  
In Memory ..... Pg 9  
A Letter to GARS ..... Pg 10  
Fresh On The Air ..... Pg 11  
Beginners Corner ..... Pg 12  
Contesting..... Pg 15  
Extra Extra ..... Pg 17  
Exam Status for 2015 .... Pg 18

### **GARS Communications**

<b>2 Meter Repeater</b> 147.075(+) MHz 82.5 PL Tone	<b>2 Meter Repeater</b> 147.255(+) MHz 107.2 PL Tone
<b>APRS</b> 144.390 -- 1200 Baud W4GR	<b>6 Meter Repeater</b> 53.110 (-1 MHz) No PL tone
<b>D-Star</b> WD4STR 145.060 + (1.4 MHz) 440.550 + (5 MHz)	<b>70 Cm Repeaters</b> 444.525(+) MHz 82.5 PL Tone 442.100(+) 100 PL Tone

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back of the  
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The *GARzette* is the official monthly newsletter of the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society, serving its members and other persons interested in the advancement of the Amateur Radio art.

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If possible, bring your articles to the monthly meeting in Microsoft Word or rich text (.rtf) or text or HTML format or by e-mail to n4gyn@arrl.net. Artwork can be accepted in most any graphics format and can be submitted via e-mail to the same address. Alternate means of submittal can be arranged when necessary.

In keeping with the Amateur Radio spirit, permission is hereby granted for the reproduction of The *GARzette* articles by other Amateur Radio club newsletters provided that proper credit is given to the individual author and *The GARzette*.

*The GARzette* is published each month with the assistance of Norm Schklar, WA4Z XV who prints copies for distribution at meetings, etc. and Dave Bruse, W4DTR, who distributes the news letter electronically.

Deadline for submissions is the 28th of each month for inclusion in the following month's issue.

For additional information view our Website at: <http://www.gars.org>

Newsletter Editor: Ray Bailey—N4GYN  
770-689-6620 or [editor@gars.org](mailto:editor@gars.org)



# Member QRZ Pages

For a few months we will be featuring the QRZ page of various members of GARS.

This month we are featuring the QRZ page of :

## K4VBM - Robert Hensey, Jr.

When you click on the link below you will find this picture of his "shack".

<http://qrz.com/lookup/k4vbm>

Read his notes and get to know him better.  
You'll be glad you did.



Here is an excerpt from his page:

*"The best part of ham radio is meeting new people. I'm fairly new to the hobby having gotten my Technician class license in 2013 and upgrading to General class in 2014..."*

Watch for another featured GARS member QRZ page in next month's GARzette!

Ray Bailey, N4GYN, GARzette Editor

## HOTY

### HAM OF THE YEAR 2015!



**Kyle D. Albritton  
W4KDA**

Voted most deserving of this distinguished award.

"One of the hardest working hams in our club!"  
"A great guy!"

# Coming Very Soon!



<http://www.techfest.info/>

SATURDAY

JANUARY 9, 2016 9AM TO 2PM



**For TechFest 2016, we are raffling off a brand new Icom 7100.**

Tickets are \$5.00 each, or 5 tickets for \$20.00.

Tickets will be available for sale at TechFest. GARS representatives will also try to visit area clubs with raffle tickets for sale.

We added an online ticket order option. **Orders may be made online.**

[Order Raffle Tickets Here](#) Multiples of 5 for \$20.00 only.

The drawing for the Icom 7100 will be held at 2:00pm at the GARS table.

You don't have to be present to win the raffle.



## DOOR PRIZES

Numerous Door Prizes.

5 TM-281A Kenwood Radios  
Donated by Kenwood

TYTERA MD-380 UHF DIGITAL  
MOBILE RADIO (DMR) With soft-  
ware and programming cable.  
Donated by:

[North Georgia Communications](#)

- ▶ MFJ 4230 Power Supply
- ▶ ARRL gift certificates
- ▶ 2 SWAT LED Rechargeable Flash-  
lights from JMR Sales.
- ▶ 50 ft Coax Jumper, 12 ft Coax  
jumper and Wirebook V from The  
Wireman.
- ▶ Assorted from Tower Electronics.  
Gift Certificate from RF Adapter Guy.  
**And many more...**

Door prize drawings will be held  
throughout the day.

*You must be present to win.*

General Admission: **FREE**

Exhibitors: **FREE**

Coffee: **FREE**

Lunch: **FREE**

Forums: **FREE**

Door Prize Tickets: **FREE**

## FORUMS

- 9:30 Digital Modes, PSK31
- 10:30 Georgia Tech Radio Club - A History
- 12:30 Intro to DMR by K4USD

## WHERE?

Gwinnett Medical Resource Center  
665 Duluth Highway (GA-120)  
Lawrenceville, GA 30046

[Directions](#)

# 2015 GARS Christmas Party



One of the best parties EVER!

# SOTA

## Summits On The Air



### Antennas for Summits

An adequate antenna is a requirement for a successful activation. In this month's column we'll look at some popular options for SOTA antennas.

#### Requirements

- Lightweight - You'll have to carry it to the summit.
- Rapid deploy - You'll not have time to wait for concrete to cure!
- Adequate signal - You need to reach 4+ chasers.

Down in the flatlands, you want a really good antenna and you can afford to put a lot of effort into achieving optimum signal. When you're on a mountain, there's a different set of trade-offs. There may be a limited weather window or darkness may be closing in and a rapid deploy can make the difference between a successful activation and a scrub.

#### VHF

If you set off with a 5 watt HT and a rubber duck, you'll need chasers nearby. Most of the time, you'll need something better.

You don't need a 7-element Yagi-Uda atop a 30' mast for a SOTA activation, although that is certainly an option if you have one and can carry it. A quarter-wave whip will make some contacts. It can be improved with the addition of a "tiger tail." A tiger tail is just a 1/4 [wave] length of light, insulated wire with a ring terminal on the end. You put it over the antenna connector on your HT, screw on the antenna, and you convert your 1/4 wave antenna into a vertical dipole. I work contacts at 100+ miles with 5 watts using one of these. A roll-up "Slim Jim" antenna is another popular option.

Line of sight is much, much better from the top of a summit than around town. A "Rubber Duck" will work just fine to reach metro Atlanta from Stone Mountain or Kennesaw Mountain. With a quarter wave vertical dipole, you can reach Atlanta from many summits in north Georgia. (Be sure to line up some local chasers in advance, and don't forget that only simplex contacts count.)

#### HF

Due to the light weight, most SOTA activators use wire antennas. You can hang your wire vertically from a tree, string your wire horizontally through branches you can reach, or use a lightweight mast. Many activators tie a string to a found rock, throw it over a branch, and hoist up a wire. I've got a terrible throwing arm and I like a consistent deploy process, so I carry a carbon fiber mast.

*(Continued on page 8)*

# SOTA - Summits On The Air

(Continued from page 7)

The classic dipole gets good results, and some activators swear by it. This antenna is particularly popular with activators who do not carry an antenna tuner, due to the ability to rig it for low SWR. The most common configuration is an inverted V. If you suspend the center from a mast, you'll need to carry a mast stiff enough to support it, and that's generally somewhat heavy. If there are trees on the summit, you can suspend the center and the ends from the trees, but setting up three support points takes longer than I generally like. If the center is up high, you'll also need to carry a long feed line, which increases your pack weight.

An end-fed is generally the most popular antenna for most activators due to the ease with which it can be deployed. If your radio has an ATU, you can throw one end of a 35.5' wire over a tree, attach the other end directly to your radio, string a similar length counterpoise through the bushes, and you're on the air in minutes.

My personal favorite is to zip tie 32' of wire to a 35' carbon fiber fishing pole, and to lean the pole against a suitable tree branch. If it's windy, you'll need to guy it or to tie it off to the tree. On a treeless summit, three aluminum stakes and three lengths of string will guy it with a few minutes of effort. If you run it through a 'matchbox', it's an end-fed half-wave for 20 meters. (I routinely work the UK and Spain with this.) To switch to 40 meters, run 32' of wire through the bushes and attach it to the ground terminal on your radio and you have a dipole (or you can think of it as a single-radial vertical, if you prefer).

## **Wrap-up**

Start with what you have. If you can get it to the summit, it is good enough to get started. You've got elevation working in your favor, and many summits are free of RFI. RF in the shack is not something you have to worry about. (There's no shack and you're running low power.) Keep in mind that you only need it to stay up for about an hour; this is **not** a 20-year antenna!

See you on the summits!

73 DE K4KPK / *Kevin*

## **Where can I find out more?**

A popular EFW: <http://www.lnrprecision.com/endfedz/trail-friendly/>

EFHW Central: <http://www.aa5tb.com/efha.html>

K4KPK's site: <http://k4kpk.com/content/sota-menu>

Email me (K4KPK). My email address is available via <http://www.qrz.com/db/K4KPK>.

## **Bio**

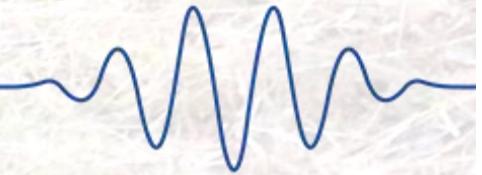
K4KPK, Kevin Kleinfelter is Georgia's first SOTA Mountain Goat. He has completed more than 150 activations.

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# Amateur Radio: A Hobby for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century



**Radio Society of Great Britain**  
Advancing amateur radio since 1913



*Amateur Radio: A Hobby for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* was produced by [TX Factor](#) for the RSGB and is intended as an introduction to amateur radio for young people.

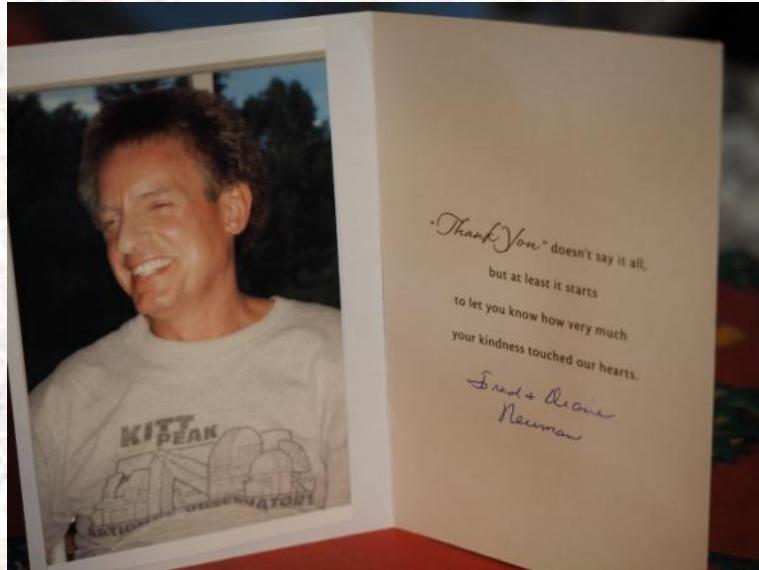
Mitch, NØDIM, found this wonderful article in the September/October 2013 issue of "The Canadian Amateur". This is a very excellent video for promoting Amateur Radio. Thank you Mitch!

<http://rsgb.org/main/get-started-in-amateur-radio/amateur-radio-a-hobby-for-the-21st-century/>

*Copied with permission from RSGB*

## In Memory

Rick Newman, N4RF - SK



"Thank You" doesn't say it all,  
but at least it starts  
to let you know how very much  
your kindness touched our hearts.  
- Fred & Deanne  
Newman

Thanks to Mike Weathers, ND4V), Norm Schklar, (WA4ZXV) and all those who helped the Newman Family with the estate sale for Silent Key "Rick Newman, N4RF".

Because of their hard work, approximately \$15,575.00 was raised from the proceeds. GARS is very appreciative of the generous donation that the Newman family gave us.

**- SEE NEXT PAGE -**

# “To Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society”

On March 12, 2015, our son Rick Neuman [N4RF] passed away from Melanoma. Rick was a polite, well-mannered, complete gentleman until his last days. His life was full with his engineering work with AT&T, his hobbies of HAM radio, photography, radio astronomy, technologies, physics, astronomy and discoveries of Stephen Hawking and Einstein. Rick made a positive impact on all the lives he touched with his sense of humor and his hobbies and philosophy of life. He was very good in music with his keyboards and guitars. Rick had a kind heart and a smile for everyone. He was a true American whose belief was "every day is a good day, some are just better than others". Although Rick was not a member of GARS, he had many, many HAM friends everywhere which he kept in touch with. He started in Ham Radio at the age of 14 and continued for the next 40 years when he passed away at the age of 54.

Rick's high achievement awarded him two certificates, one for MIXED and the other for PHONE plus his DXCC HONOR ROLL which is the pinnacle of achievement in the DXCC world. Those who knew Rick expressed how fortunate they were to have the opportunity to know him. Rick was a great encourager of Ham radio and radio astronomy. Many have come forward to mention if it had not been for Rick they would not have continued being a Ham. Rick promoted international goodwill whenever possible. A graduate of Calculus and Physics enabled Rick to have a scheduled appointment and interview with NASA to enter the space program but his disease took him instead. But Rick knew that his interest in life had taken place. His former companies whom he worked with had written several times that Rick was a gentleman first and was a man of great integrity and sound judgement. ARRL has reported that Rick had an honor roll of 350 with 1,533 in the Logbook of the World. It is quite hard to describe a gentleman who you do not know but maybe these facts about Rick will stay with you in your own life.

We know that GARS appreciates the proceeds from Rick's radio equipment and will enable them to use it wisely. We express our gratitude to the entire club, especially Mike Weathers, who organized the entire equipment for the Hamfest, along with great helpers of Norm Schklar, Paul Kelley, Larry Whited, Paul Branson and Ray Bailey. The Hamfest brought \$15,134.00. We are sending 2,000.00 to ARRL for Rick's memorial. We are looking forward to next year's Hamfest to price the remaining equipment. It gives us sadness and also great joy to present \$13,515.00 to GARS. Thanks be to Rick for continuing his goodwill and never be forgotten. His recipe for success in life was "follow your passion, be the best you can be, at what you love to do". Many memorials have been sent to ARRL and we hope they will continue. A quiet, genuine, dedicated, considerate and well mannered brilliant kind son will always remain in our hearts.

Echo to the World

*Fred and Diane Neuman*

# Fresh On The Air

## — ADVENTURES FOR THE NEW AND BEGINNING HAM

### A Stale Ham is Not as Tasty...

As a new Amateur Radio operator, once you get comfortable in the hobby and develop your excellent operating skills, you will eventually settle down into a more routine operating practice. You may have the radio turned on during your commute back and forth to work. You may talk on the local repeater on those nights that you have off. Maybe you like to have a quick QSO on your lunch break. Whatever it is you do in the hobby, you do it often and you do it well.

But routine operating like this eventually leads to a habit, and an avoidance of going beyond what is familiar and comfortable. After being in the hobby for a decade or two, even those who you do not QSO with on a regular basis know your routine. It's like going into a restaurant and having the server immediately bring you a coffee, a hot hamburger sandwich with fries, and a slice of cherry pie. Comfortable, familiar, and satisfying. But like that restaurant and your regular food items, there are many more things on the Amateur Radio menu that you should be trying.

We all tend to hang out on our local or club repeater talking with other Amateurs who we are familiar with. But there are a multitude of other local repeaters out there that most of us can hit, but we never go on them. Each repeater has its own type of community atmosphere and operating practice; the users are of both a different breed of background and information. Going on a rather unfamiliar repeater and talking with Amateurs that you have never communicated with before can be a bit scary and intimidating, but it can also be fun and exciting. You will get different opinions on familiar subjects, maybe learn something new, or make a new friend. "Repeater Diversification" is a good habit to get into.

We also tend to stick to bands that are familiar and comfortable. Some stay on HF, some only communicate on two metres, others may simply hang out on UHF repeaters exclusively. Once again, it is comfort and familiarity, though some Amateurs are regulated to only one band due to being in an area that does not have

more than one repeater to access, or from only having a single band radio. But that does not mean that you should stay on one band if you have a multiband radio and repeaters on two or more bands in your area.

If you have a multiband radio, you can operate on VHF, UHF and/or other bands your radio has access to. All it takes is two or more operators on a simplex frequency on a band we don't use much – such as 146, 440 or 222 MHz – to keep us from becoming creatures of habit. There's another thing. Get off the repeater and operate simplex for a change. You might be surprised how much you may like it. Try a UHF repeater if you use a VHF one. And vice versa.

One thing you might hear on repeaters, local or through Internet linking protocols, is the "net". These are scheduled on-air meetings of Amateurs for specific purposes, on-air club meetings, or just for the camaraderie our hobby enjoys.

There are CanWarn nets, ARES nets, Old Guys with Green Cars and Wooden Legs nets, city or community specific nets, Women only nets, Under 18 nets, Club nets, well, you name it and there might be a net for it. Your local repeater may have a net that you might be interested in, whether it is for a specific topic, club net, or just as a weekly on-air get-together. Most nets are formal with a Net Controller who requests checkins from specific areas or regions or with specific traffic, then requests checkins from net listeners.

And nets can be quite fun to listen to. For instance, one year on New Year's Eve a local club repeater, in a city I was in, was connected to a hub and several other repeaters around the world, for an international New Year's Eve Celebration Net. The controller was a fellow in Britain who was in London for the New Year's festivities. Come midnight local London time, he "broadcast" the countdown to the ringing of Big Ben. It was exciting to participate, via Amateur Radio, in being in a far-off city listening to an iconic structure ringing in the New Year.

But don't just listen. Participate. Even if you just answer, "Hi, VE3BOC, Phil, from Barrie, no traffic, just listening to the net. I'll let you get back, 73 everyone. VE3BOC." All you have to do is check in. You don't have to have anything to say other than hi, I'm here, just listening in, thanks, bye. At least you participated in the net. So if you come upon a net during one of your evening strolls through the Amateur bands, stop, listen and check in.

We Amateurs tend to like routine, familiarity, and comfort. But as a new Amateur, you really shouldn't get into a deep and dirty comfort zone. Try to diversify your operating habits and practices. Go with the unfamiliar, the uncomfortable. Do new things. Experiment. Get out of your Amateur Radio comfort zone. Don't let your hobby habits become stale. Because, like real ham, stale does not taste as good as fresh and new.

### Transmission Tidbit:

Observational Trivia – Next time you pull into a coffee shop or mall where one or more police vehicles are parked, keep your eye out for the suspicious person peering into the police cars' interiors. This person is not a criminal. This person is an Amateur Radio operator checking out the police radio equipment!

I would love to hear from our new female and very young Amateurs on your first impressions of the hobby, both positive and negative. Write me via the magazine; email me at [phillipjboucher@gmail.com](mailto:phillipjboucher@gmail.com), or via my website at: <http://www.phillipjboucher.com>.

*From The Canadian Amateur,  
Sept. 13, 2013*

# Beginners Corner

Happy 2016 to everyone! If you are a new ham, I hope you have made a resolution to be as active in the hobby as much as possible. May I make some recommendations on how you can be more active in the hobby?

1. Join a club. Since this is a GARS publication, we have to recommend the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society. GARS is a ham friendly club. We are a large club with lots of Elmers (mentors) to help you get started in the hobby. Other good clubs in the area are the Atlanta Radio Club, the North Fulton Amateur Radio League and the Alford Memorial Radio Club. There are others, as well. A simple web search for “Atlanta area ham radio clubs” will yield the names of other great clubs.
2. Get on the air! Program your radio with the frequencies of repeaters you might reach from your location. The GARS repeater frequencies are on our web site, [www.gars.org](http://www.gars.org). Other clubs will have their repeaters listed on their web site. Again, your Elmer will be glad to help get your radio programmed. Most new hams will have some “mike fright”. If you explain to whomever you are talking with on the air, he or she will be very understanding. Even a ham who has been licensed for 50 years or more was a new ham at one time.
3. Be active in your club. Attend your club’s monthly meetings. You will have an opportunity to meet fellow hams in your club. You can ask them for advice or help in person. Face time with fellow hams can sometimes be even more exciting than talking to them on the air! You will see the face behind the voice. Most club monthly meetings have an interesting presentation, too. Also, just about every club has some sort of activities during the year. These are times where hams can get on the air during a special event. Sometimes clubs will build antennas or a special project. Got an idea for a club activity? Just approach a club officer and let him or her know what you would like to do.
4. Get on the club’s Yahoo! Group. Just about all clubs have a Yahoo! Group account or “reflector”. Emails, photos, files, etc. are sent to everyone on the group list. It’s a great way to keep informed of what’s happening with your club. Got a question? Just post it on the group. Most times you will receive a quick reply. Want to know what’s happening in other clubs? Most clubs do not require membership in order for you to join their Yahoo! Group.
5. Learn all you can about amateur radio. The American Radio Relay League ([www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)) has many books you can order by mail, as do ham radio stores. Our local radio store ([www.hamradio.com](http://www.hamradio.com)) has a lot of good books. On the internet, ham radio web sites abound. Typing in “ham radio” or “amateur radio” will yield numerous results. Going to YouTube ([www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)) and type in “ham radio”. You will find a plethora of videos. I recommend typing in “ham nation” into the YouTube search window. They have over 200 shows that are full of interesting things. Also try Amateur Logic ([www.amateurlogic.tv](http://www.amateurlogic.tv)). They have a lot of good programs that are perfect for the new ham.
6. Ham radio is much more than two-meter FM. With a Technician license, you can talk to satellite, bounce signals off the moon, operate an amateur television station, and much, much more!
7. Considering upgrading your license. With a general or extra class license, you can discover the magic of high frequency (HF) radio. You can talk to hams around the world!

I have a modest station and a modest antenna. I recently had a QSO (conversation) with a ham operator in St. Helena, the second most remote island on earth! With amateur radio, there are so many things you can do, the world is literally yours to discover.

Discover it!

73 de KJ4CMY, *David Harden.*

# GARS Membership Page

## New GARS Members in December

**Daniel Connolly (KM4PTZ)  
Raul Perez (KM4OXD)  
Lou Riccio (KM4PUF)  
Stephen Urmano (KM4PUG)**

## New Members: 4

**Total Members as of January 1, 2016  
- 275-**

**Join us for our weekly  
breakfast gathering at  
7:30 AM most Saturdays**

**at**

**Golden Corral  
2155 Riverside Parkway  
Lawrenceville, GA 30043**

**[\(Directions\)](#)**

**The following members are  
celebrating birthdays  
in January:**

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!  
From All of Us at GARS**

Diane Andrus (KB4LWS)  
Terry Cantrell (W4WTC)  
Rick Cobb (N4XYY)  
Randy Collins (N4COR)  
Mike Cottrell (KJ4EIE)  
John Craig (KK4JXU)  
Kathleen Fallin (KM4KNV)  
Mark Fenley (KM4DJO)  
Gregg Freeman (KK4GWG)  
Kevin Highsmith (KK4WOG)  
Ruth Jones (K4RHJ)  
Dorothy Jubon (N2DLJ)  
Edonna Koon (KM4JKL)  
Kevin McClure (KF4HFN)  
Yolanda Pence (KM4AAQ)  
William Pettit (K4ENQ)  
Grant Porter (KG4SDR)  
Kirk Reeves (KK4CDC)  
Michael Stebnicki (KJ4PQZ)  
David Thomas (N4DDT)  
Newton White (N4EWT)  
Ruth Willet (KM4LAO)  
Curtis Young (WA4HCE)  
Hal Collier (W4IGE)

## GARS MEMBERSHIP

Your current GARS membership status is shown in the monthly newsletter e-mail  
towards the bottom of the message.

To become a GARS member, or to renew your GARS membership, please visit our website—<http://www.gars.org>

To make changes to your GARS membership (moved, new e-mail address, new phone number, etc.),  
please e-mail the Membership Committee - [membership@gars.org](mailto:membership@gars.org)

You can **renew or update** your Amateur Radio license information with the FCC at their website for free  
<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/index.htm?job=home>

To update your ARRL information, please visit their website - <http://www.arrl.org>

Membership Chair: Karen Albritton, KI4HPP  
Committee Members: Richard Atkin, KJ4ZTY, Dave Bruse, W4DTR

# Net Managers Corner

## Monday Night 2 Meter “Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net”

### **GARS NEEDS MEMBERS TO SERVE AS NET CONTROLLERS**

**GARS is a great Amateur Radio service club** and we have the membership and awards to prove it. Our club is a very busy and active club and we use the Monday night net to get the information out to our members. Weekly participation is needed to make our net function well. There is only a small group of very dedicated people that make the net happen each week, and we need more members to volunteer to serve as Net Control Stations (NCS) on a rotating basis.

Out of almost 300 members, there are only twelve primary people who serve as NCS for the GARS net every Monday night. In no particular order, they are:

Norm - WA4ZXV	Kyle - W4KDA	Mitch - N0DIM
Hal - W4IGE	Don - KW4AL	Ray - N4GYN
Sandy - KJ4DRO	John - WB4QDX	Bill KK4AUA
Kevin - KK4WOG	Chuck - KK4TKJ	Charles - N4CEA

As GARS Net Manager (Chuck KK4TKJ), I need 30 people to fill NCS positions. I do plan to post the schedule months in advance. Any conditions will be accommodated that you, as a rotating NCS, need to place on the scheduling of your duties. If your plans change, I can make adjustments for the schedule to work, and I will make those changes happen as soon as I am notified of a problem. As Net Manager, I also send out reminders each week to let the NCS scheduled know he or she is NCS for the next Monday night net. In short, serving as a rotating NCS is a small duty but a great contribution to the club. The “Want, Swap, Sell Information Net” begins promptly at 19:30 every Monday night and runs about 45 minutes. As a scheduled NCS, you will request the assistance of a volunteer alternate NCS each time you have Net Control. Your simple duties will be to tune in to the GARS repeater, read the script, take a few notes and forward the information to me for record keeping.

Please lend a hand and contact me at KK4TKJ@arrl.net. Sign up to help support the effort that makes GARS the great club that it is.

73 and see you on the Nets!

*Chuck McCord.* KK4TKJ Net Manager



**Don't miss the “KNOW IT ALL” Net  
Wednesday nights, 8:30-9:30 pm**



We have moved to a new format. We begin with current events and announcements. Then we Introduce New Technology. Then we have check-ins and general discussion. Post net is Rag Chew format.

*Jeff*—AB4HF

Everyone is having great fun on this net! Come join us and become a “KNOW IT ALL”.

**TIME: 8:30 every Wednesday evening on the GARS repeater - 2m 147.075 + PL 82.5**

**6m 53.110 - No Tone**

**70cm 442.100 + PL 100.0**

## ARRL CONTESTING INFO

>>> NOTE: For more information click the links <<<

**January 6**

[QRP Fox Hunt](#)  
[Phone Fray](#)  
[CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)  
[UKEICC 80m Contest](#)



**January 7**

[CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)

**January 8**

[NCCC RTTY Sprint](#)  
[QRP Fox Hunt](#)

[NCCC Sprint Ladder](#)

**January 9**

[Old New Year Contest](#)  
[UBA PSK63 Prefix Contest](#)

**January 10**

[SKCC Weekend Sprintathon](#)  
[NRAU-Baltic Contest, SSB](#)

[NRAU-Baltic Contest, CW](#)

[DARC 10-Meter Contest](#)

[Midwinter Contest](#)

**January 13**

[NAQCC CW Sprint](#)  
[QRP Fox Hunt](#)

[Phone Fray](#)

[CWops Mini-CWT Test](#)

[AWA Linc Cundall Memorial CW Contest](#) For more contest info, go to: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/November%202015.pdf>

## HAMFEST CALENDAR

### Southeast US

**01/09/2016 | [TechFest 2016](#)**

Location: Lawrenceville, GA  
Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society  
Website: <http://www.GARS.org>

**02/06/2016 | [South Carolina State Convention \(2016 Charleston Hamfest\)](#)**

Location: North Charleston, SC  
Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Charleston Amateur Radio Society  
Website: <http://wa4usn.org>

**03/04/2016 | [Alabama Section Convention \(BirmingHamFest\)](#)**

Location: Birmingham, AL  
Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Birmingham Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://birminghamfest.org>

**04/23/2016 | [Waynesboro Hamfest](#)**

Location: Waynesboro, GA  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Burke Amateur Radio Club  
Website: <http://waynesborohamfest.com>



**04/23/2016 | [Calhoun Hamfest](#)**

Location: Sugar Valley, GA  
Type: ARRL Hamfest  
Sponsor: Cherokee Capital Amateur Radio Society  
Website: <http://www.k4woc.com>

**06/04/2016 | [Georgia Section Convention \(Atlanta Hamfest\)](#)**

Location: Marietta, GA  
Type: ARRL Convention  
Sponsor: Atlanta Radio Club (W4DOC) & Kennebogee Amateur Radio Club (W4BTI)  
Website: <http://www.atlantahamfest.com>



## BSA Venture Crew 73 Wants You!

IF YOU are between 14 and 21 years old, enjoy outdoor activities, and have an interest in radio technology, **Venture Crew 73 is for you.**

- Venture Crews are part of the Boy Scouts of America.
- *Venture crew 73 is chartered by the Gwinnett Amateur Radio Society.*
- Venture crew 73 is coed.
- *Meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month, 7:00 pm, at EAA 690 Hangar at:  
Briscoe Field - Sports Aviation Complex  
Hangar 1, 690 Airport Road  
Lawrenceville, GA 30045*
- Crew 73 is a youth-run organization, which means that our Crew President and other youth plan the Crew's outings and activities each month.

*We enjoy:*

- ◊ Camping
- ◊ Hiking
- ◊ Horseback Riding
- ◊ Shooting Sports

- Crew activities usually mix high adventure and the use of Amateur Radio.
- For more information, attend our next meeting or contact:

### Steve Back, WB2OGY

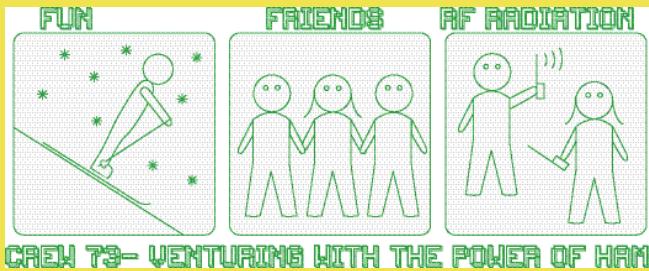
Venture Crew 73 Committee Chairman  
Phone: 770-712-9069

E-mail: [committeechair@venturecrew73.org](mailto:committeechair@venturecrew73.org)

### Ryan Girard, KG4WPB

Venture Crew 73 Advisor  
Phone: 770-508-3650

E-mail: [rgirard@knights.ucf.edu](mailto:rgirard@knights.ucf.edu)



## G A R S Officers and Committee Chairs

Rick Cobb, N4XXY  
President



Mike Weathers, ND4V  
Vice President



Nick Doemland, AB4CQ  
Secretary



Sid Weaver, N4NQ  
Treasurer



Nick Nikley, N0NCQ  
Program Manager



Karen Albritton KI4HPP  
Membership Chair



Dave Bruse, W4DTR  
Ham Exam Team Leader



David Adcock, KA4KKF  
Webmaster, Field Day Chair



Dorothy Jubon, N2DLJ  
Public Information Officer



Ralph Pickwick KJ4CNC  
TechFest Chair, Apparel Mgr



Ray Bailey, N4GYN  
GARzette Editor



Jeff Cutchins AB4HF  
Multimedia Chair



John Ackermann, N8UR  
W4GR Trustee



Eddie Foust, WD4JEM  
Repeater Chair



Ralph Pickwick, KJ4CNC  
Education Chair



Mike Weathers, ND4V  
WAS-Checker, Historian



Chuck McCord, KK4TKJ  
Net Manager



Mike Swiderski, K4HBI  
Technical Advisor



### DIRECTORS

Kyle Albritton W4KDA



David Adcock KA4KKF



Norm Schklar WA4ZXV



## EXTRA! EXTRA!

### FEBRUARY MEETING

“Everything about Morse Code (CW)”  
by W4KLY, Paul Kelly and NN4K, Vaden McDonald

### MARCH MEETING

“A peek into Radio Astronomy”  
by K4CSO, Charles Osborne

#### Don't forget!

#### National Parks on the Air

Operating event starting January 1, 2016.  
It's a year-long event, and there are leader  
boards, certificates, and so on.

### Do you know how the GPS system began?

Here is a video of how it started:  
Transit and the Birth of Satellite Navigation

APL=Applied Physics Laboratory  
<http://jhuapl.edu>

My employer for 20 years.  
Ray Bailey—N4GYN

### GARS Recurring Calendar

- ♦ Monthly club meeting is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7 pm
- ♦ Every Monday at 7:30 pm: GARS Want, Swap, Sell, and Information Net + 8:30 pm: ARES Training on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ♦ Every Wednesday at 8:30 pm: GARS Know It All Net on the GARS 147.075 MHz repeater
- ♦ Every Saturday at 7:30 am: GARS Weekly Breakfast, Golden Corral Restaurant, Riverside Drive, Lawrenceville

## DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Rick, N4YXX, called the meeting to order at 7:30pm

First time visitors were welcomed and roundtable introductions were made. Ticket upgrades were recognized.

#### General Business

**Sid, N4NQ, gave the treasure's report.** Voting took place and the treasure's report was approved

*NOTE: Thanks to Mike (ND4V), and Norm (WA4ZXV) and all those who helped the Newman Family with the estate sale for Silent Key “Rick Newman, N4RF”. The club was able to raise approximately \$15, 575.00. GARS is very appreciative of the generous donation that the Newman family provided.*

**Karen, KI4HPP, gave the membership report:** GARS has 294 members

*NOTE: Rick reminded us that our designation as a “Special Service Club” requires that 50% of membership also be an ARRL member (GARS receives a portion of the sign-up and renewal fee. see Sid, N4NQ for details)*

**Nick, N0NCQ, Program Manager announced** that Will Jourdain, KI4VXF will be telling us about the new ICOM IC7851 at the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
..and..

**February 9<sup>th</sup>** – Everything about Morse Code , presented by Paul Kelley, W4KLY and Vaden McDonald, NN4K

#### Program

The annual GARS Christmas Party was a huge success, with great food, fun and fellowship. Check the GARS Facebook page for pictures.

Kyle D. Albritton, W4KDA, was given the prestigious **Ham Of The Year** award for 2015, for his tireless help in so many GARS events and projects.

#### Upcoming Events

Techfest 2016  
Date: January 9, 2016  
Time: 0900-1400  
Location: Gwinnett Medical Resource Center – 665 Duluth Highway, Lawrenceville, GA

Cherokee Rose Cluster Dog Show  
Date: February 4-7, 2016

Time: TBA  
Location: Atlanta Expo Center – 3650 Jonesboro Road, Atlanta, GA

Meeting concluded around 9:00pm

*Nick*, AB4CQ, Secretary

## License Exam Stats

I want to thank everyone for another successful year. In 2015, we gave 148 ham radio exams. We also assisted with another 44 exams at the Stone Mountain Hamfest. That's a total of 192 exams for 2015.

Here's the breakdown for those that are interested:

YEAR													AVG / Month	SUB TOTAL	Ham			TOTAL
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC			TechFest	Crams	Other	
2012	8	4	7	8	5	6	4	13	3	7	11	10	7.2	86	17	15	118	
2013	3	9	3	4	3	3	4	5	14	3	4	10	5.4167	65	11	41	117	
2014	8	8	5	6	2	9	1	7	3	4	5	7	5.4167	65	20	27	112	
2015	7	9	10	7	8	8	4	6	9	4	1	14	7.25	87	12	33	148	
2016																		
Avg	6.5	7.5	6.3	6.3	4.5	6.5	3.3	7.8	7.3	4.5	5.3	10.3	6.3	75.8	15.0	29.0	123.8	
Total	26	30	25	25	18	26	13	31	29	18	21	41		303	60	116	495	

Thank you!!!

73,

Dave, W4DTR

## GARS CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
3	4 8:00 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	5 6:30 - 8:00 pm GARS Exec Meeting	6 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	7	8 	9 TECHFEST! TECHFEST! TECHFEST! 9am - 2pm
10 GARS Monthly Exam Session 2pm - 3pm	11 8:00 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	12 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Dinner at Flying Machine 7:00pm -9:00pm GARS Meeting	13 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	14	15	16 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
17	18 8:00 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	19	20 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	21	22	23 7:30 - 9:30 am Breakfast at Golden Corral Riverside Drive
24	25 8:00 - 8:30 pm GARS 2m Net	26	27 8:30 - 9:30 pm GARS Know-It-All Net	28	29	30

Metro Testing Sessions	Ham Exam Results	Metro Club Meetings
<p><i>GARS publishes Metro Atlanta VE exam schedules as a service and is not responsible for errors or changes. Call and confirm schedules before going. All sessions are walk-in. Take copies of current license and certificate of completed elements with you to all sessions. Find additional sessions online at <a href="http://www.arrl-ga.org">http://www.arrl-ga.org</a>.</i></p> <p><b>First Sunday, ODD Months</b> 2 pm (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, &amp; Nov) VEC: WCARS Braselton Public Utility Building 4986 Highway 53, Braselton, GA Roger Gibson, WB4T (770) 271-4210 or (770) 712-9560 <a href="mailto:w4rlg@bellsouth.net">w4rlg@bellsouth.net</a></p> <p><b>First Sunday, EVEN Months</b> 2 pm (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec) VEC: WCARS Hall County EOC 470 Crescent Dr. Gainesville, Ga. Perry Roper, KO4RD (770) 536-3056</p> <p><b>Second Saturday</b> 10:00 AM Alpharetta North Park, Adult Activities Center 13450 Cogburn Rd, Alpharetta, GA 30004 Ian Kahn, KM4IK E-mail: <a href="mailto:km4ik.ian@gmail.com">km4ik.ian@gmail.com</a></p> <p><b>Second Saturday, ODD Months</b> VEC: ARRL 8:30 a.m. GMC Community Ctr 5325 Leon St. Stone Mountain, GA Frank Haynes, KV4SP (678) 467-3712</p> <p><b>Second Sunday</b> VEC: W5YI 2 pm Fire Station #24 Mall of Georgia Boulevard Buford, GA 30519 Contact: Dave Bruse, W4DTR E-mail: <a href="mailto:exams@gars.org">exams@gars.org</a></p> <p><b>Third Saturday</b> VEC: W5YI 2 pm (Except December) Lifeway Church 1654 Atlanta Highway #109 Steve Donellan, N5SMD (404) 520-0368 E-mail: <a href="mailto:n5smd@comcast.net">n5smd@comcast.net</a></p> <p><i>(cont. next column)</i></p>	<p><b>We had a very good turn out for the VE exam session on Sunday, 12/13/15.</b></p> <p><b>Thirteen</b> individuals took exams and ten passed as follows:</p> <p>Eight (8) - new Technician Class Two (2) - upgraded to Amateur Extra.</p> <p>Many thanks to the VE's who made the exam possible:</p> <p>Sid Weaver – N4NQ (Co-CVE) Dave Bruse – W4DTR (CVE) Rick Cobb – N4XYY Frank Haynes – KV4SP</p> <p>73,</p> <p><i>Don Bagby, KK4NJM, Co-CVE</i></p> <p>GARS VE Team Leader E-mail: <a href="mailto:exams@gars.org">exams@gars.org</a></p> <p>GARS VE Website: <a href="http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GARS_VE_Team/">http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GARS_VE_Team/</a></p> <p><b>Fourth Tuesday</b> ARRL VEC 7 pm @ United Way Service Center 6279 Fairburn Rd., Douglasville Jessie Clower, KB4WFK (770) 942-6466</p> <p><b>Fourth Sunday</b> 2:30 pm Georgia Tech VanLeer Elec. Building Rm. W218, 777 Atlantic Dr. See <a href="http://www.w4aql.com">www.w4aql.com</a> Alexander G. Carver (404) 894-2936 <a href="mailto:acarver@ece.gatech.edu">acarver@ece.gatech.edu</a></p>	<p><b>First Tuesday</b> Kennehoochee ARC Downtown Marietta Fire Station #1, Training Room 112 Haynes Street Marietta, Georgia 30060 Meeting begins at 7:00pm Talk In 146.880(-)</p> <p><b>First Thursday</b> Atlanta Radio Club Georgia Red Cross HQ 1955 Monroe Dr., Atlanta Meeting is at 7:30pm Talk In -146.820(-) N.E. Georgia ARC Commerce Public Library Meeting is at 6:30pm Talk In - 147.225(+) PL 123.0</p> <p><b>Second Monday</b> Georgia Tech ARC Room W218 Van Leer Electrical Engineering Bldg. Georgia Tech Campus Meeting at 7:00pm</p> <p><b>Second Thursday</b> Alford Memorial Radio Club Annistown Road Baptist Church Intersection of Annistown Rd &amp; Spain Rd Stone Mountain Dinner at 6:00pm Meeting at 7:30pm Talk In - 146.760(-)</p> <p><b>Second Saturday</b> North GA QRP Club Board Room of The Shepherd Center at 2020 Peachtree Rd, NW, Atlanta at 10:00 AM</p> <p><b>Third Tuesday</b> North Fulton Amateur Radio League Alpharetta Recreation &amp; Parks Dept Alpharetta Adult Activity Center 13450 Cogburn Road Alpharetta, GA 30004 meeting at 7:30pm Talk In - 145.47(-) For more, go to: <a href="http://www.gars.org/">http://www.gars.org/</a></p>

## WORLD WIDE DISTRIBUTION



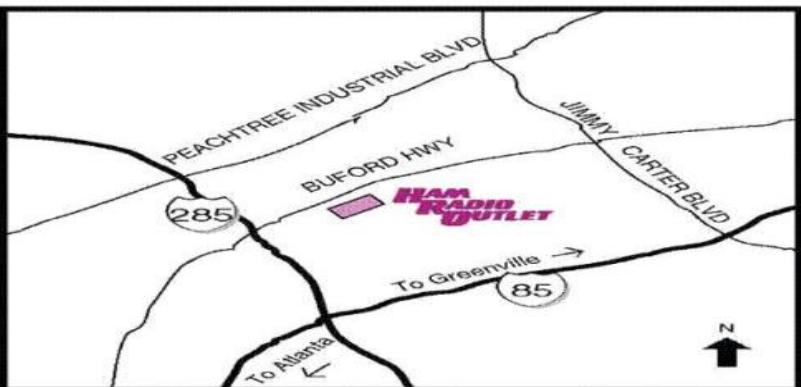
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KJ4VO

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